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University Marketing and Communications, "04/11/1994 - Hicks Completing fellowship At EIU.pdf" (1994). 1994. 174.
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94-101

April 11, 1994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HICKS COMPLETING FELLOWSHIP AT EIU

CHARLESTON -- During the past seven months, Governors State University Professor Charles Hicks has learned more about the business operations at Eastern Illinois University than he had ever dreamed.

The GSU professor of music is spending the 1993-94 academic year at Eastern as a Board of Governors Universities Affirmative Action Administrative Fellow.

He is shadowing EIU Vice President for Business Affairs Charles Colbert from whom he is learning about university operations, including the management of administrative services, academic computing, central stores, human resources and physical plant operations.

The BGU Affirmative Action Administrative Fellows program is designed to expand and diversify the pool of leadership talent within the BGU system and increase minority and female access to top-level higher education administrative positions.

"I truly have seen a 'master' at work," Hicks said of Colbert. "He and his

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entire office staff have demonstrated their commitment to the BGU fellows program. In the short time I have been here, I have obtained a global view of what an administrator at the vice presidential level has to consider. Above all, he or she has to look at the big picture -- what is best for the institution. This requires tough decision-making."

Although Hicks has learned a great deal about the EIU administration in general and even more about the business operations within a university setting, he did not come to Eastern without some sense of what it takes to run a business.

The Homewood resident worked at his family's construction business while in college and was a partner in a copier business in suburban Chicago. "Business got in my blood at an early age; however, I knew little about what was meant by big business. After my first meeting with Dr. Colbert, I knew that what we are talking about here at Eastern is big business."

While at Eastern, Hicks has produced, under Colbert's guidance, a 96-page NACUBO (National Association of College and University Business Officers) Benchmark report, a comparative study which indicates ways an institution can improve its internal business functions.

Hicks said this project, as well as membership on several administrative search committees, has given him the opportunity to interface with many members of the campus community.

"Besides meeting and talking with my mentor on a daily basis, I have been

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working with and across a variety of areas within business affairs. It's been a challenge understanding the varied functions of the university," he said.

Hicks said he chose Eastern not only because of its excellent reputation and residential setting, but because his son, Chris, is a junior finance major here and a running back on the football team.

After completing his fellowship in June, Hicks will return to GSU in hopes of obtaining an administrative position in business affairs.

"I still plan to teach even if I'm in administration," said Hicks, adding that nothing can match the interaction and exchange of ideas in the classroom or the audience's applause following a musical performance.

At GSU, Hicks has been primarily responsible for instrumental music courses and conducts the GSU Community Symphonic Band. GSU students named him Faculty Advisor of the Year in 1986-87.